

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 17, 2014**

**ATTENDANCE:** Rev. Mary McBride-Lee, Co-Chair; Denese Taylor-Moye, Co-Chair; Enrique Torres, Robert Halstead

**OTHERS:** Ms. Lee Helmrick, School Readiness Grant Coordinator

**CALL TO ORDER**

Rev. Lee called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 2014**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 2014.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 2014 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**177-13 GRANT SUBMISSION: RE FY 2014-2015 SCHOOL READINESS CONTRACT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD LAB SCHOOL AT HOUSATONIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE.**

Rev. Lee passed around a copy of the grant application. Ms. Helmrick introduced herself to the Council Members. Council Member Taylor-Moye asked if this was a new grant. Ms. Helmrick explained that the contract had been changed recently to include having the Mayor sign the contract. Council Member Taylor-Moye said that the program was up and running already but was curious as to why the Mayor was now being required to sign it. Ms. Helmrick explained that the program had been running for 17 years. Since this is a State department, the State generates the contract. Recently, the State Attorney General decided that the Mayor would have to sign a resolution for the School Readiness Co-chair to sign the contract. Prior to this, the contract was handled by the Board of Education. Ms. Helmrick then reviewed the details with the Council Members.

Council Member Halstead asked how long the program had been underway. Ms. Helmrick repeated that the program had been underway for 17 years. She also reviewed the guidelines for the Early Childhood Education program, which are that the child must be three years old and a Bridgeport resident.

Council Member Halstead asked about longitudinal studies on the students that were in the first classes 17 years ago. Ms. Helmrick said that there had been reports of a decreased percentage of special education needs and other benefits. Council Member Halstead said that the parents were competitive and so the children will likely do better because of the parental involvement. Ms. Helmrick said that it was a combination of the parental involvement and solid educational

practices. Due to funding reductions, only 20 children can be enrolled. Previously, there had been 44 children in the program.

Council Member Halstead asked how long the center was open. Ms. Helmrick said that the center had to be open for 10 hours a day and most of the parents work, so the children are there for about 8 or 9 hours a day.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she had known a number of parents who had their children in the program. She said that she was familiar with the program and that the parents were very involved in the program. Ms. Helmrick said that the goal was to have the students ready for kindergarten.

Rev. Lee said that a critical component was parental involvement. She said that the same rules that applied for charter schools and magnet schools should apply to public school. When the parents are not involved in the child's education, they don't perform as well. Council Member Taylor-Moye said that there have been incidents of the young children not being respectful, pushing others and causing trouble and so they are working on the pre-kindergarten children.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 177-13 GRANT SUBMISSION: RE FY 2014-2015 SCHOOL READINESS CONTRACT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD LAB SCHOOL AT HOUSATONIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES SECONDED.**

Council Member Halstead asked if the students were able to interact with the garden at the library next door. Ms. Helmrick said that they were obligated by the terms of the program to be involved with the library.

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services